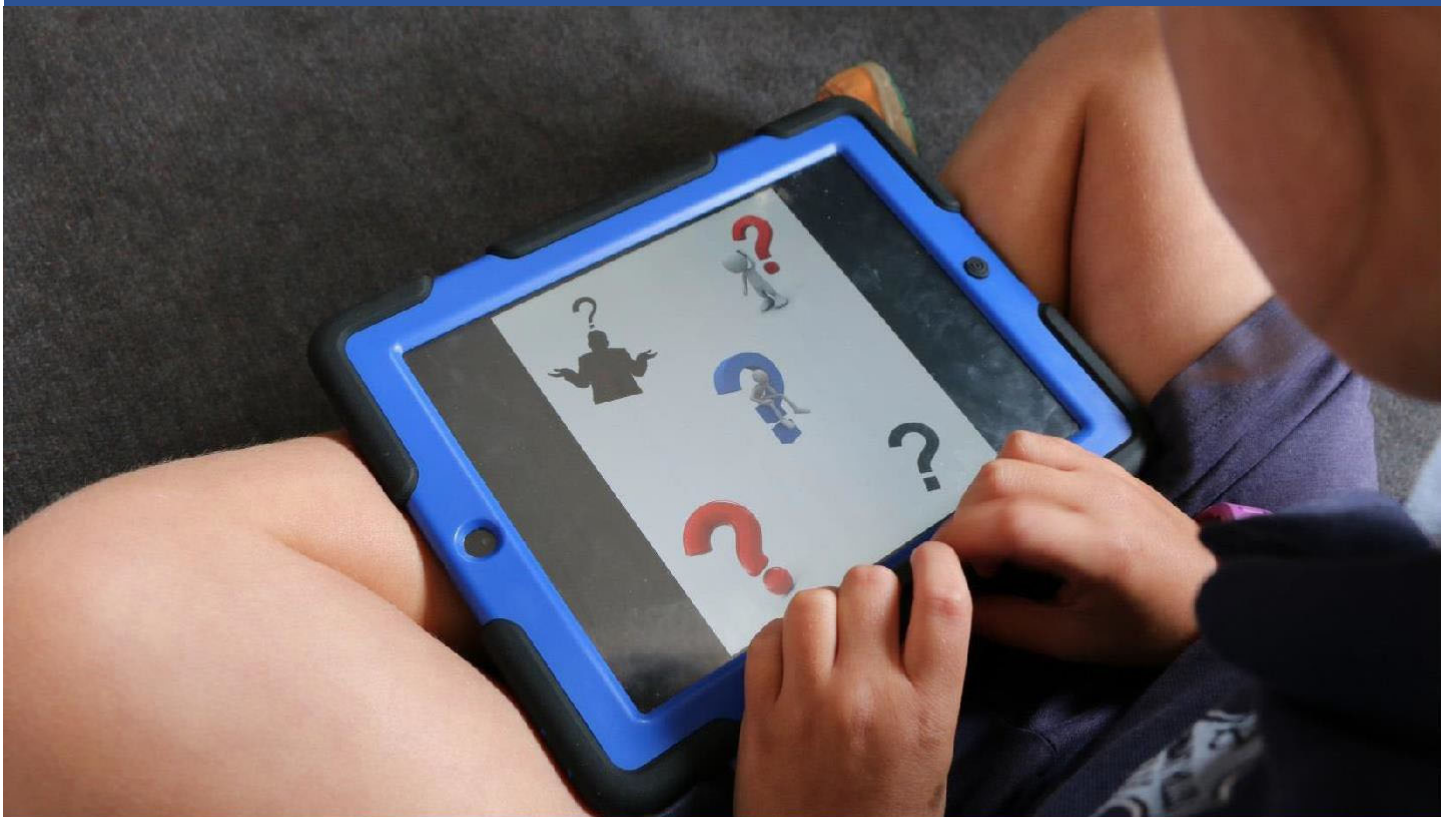


Pennant Hills Public School

Bring Your Own Device

Frequently Asked Questions – Revised November 2023



Pennant Hills BYOD Frequently Asked Questions – Revised November 2023

Q: Is it compulsory for all students to bring their own device to school?

A: No. Student participation in BYOD is optional and all students will be able to engage fully in classroom activities, with or without their own device.

Q: I don't have a device that my child can bring to school. Will my child be penalised or miss out on instruction?

A: No, it is not mandatory for students to bring a device, even if they do own one. However, students may find it easier to more fully engage in lessons with their own device. Pennant Hills Public School will maintain a BYOD Equity Policy to ensure all students have access to some form of computing resources that are required for school work.

Q: What will be provided by the school?

A: The school will provide access to a filtered Wi-Fi Internet service. All students have access to a suite of Windows, Microsoft and Adobe software through the DoE portal. This software is free to all DoE students.

Q: Who pays for the technology brought to school?

A: These devices will be purchased by and remain the property of the family. The DoE provides access to the Internet and some Microsoft and Adobe software packages, for all students, at no cost.

Q: Why are current school devices not sufficient?

A: To make use of anywhere, anytime learning and to allow students to investigate and access information readily throughout the day, it is not possible to timetable borrowed devices in half hour lessons throughout the day. This model has been trialled with the laptops on the 3-6 site. Teachers and students have reported dissatisfaction in developing continuous learning and accessing the resource at the time it is needed. The school does not have enough hardware to provide 1:1 devices across the school.

Q: Do parents and students need to sign anything before devices are brought to school?

A: Prior to connecting their devices to the Pennant Hills Public School DoE network, students must return a Student BYOD Agreement. This agreement must be signed by the student and by a parent/caregiver.

Q: How will these devices be used in the classroom?

A: Technology is a tool in the day-to-day learning of our students. Different teachers and students in different classes will use it in different ways. Students will not be learning in a paperless or wholly online environment, they will be using technology in classes to support the best possible approaches to rigorous teaching and learning.

Q: What about my child's basic literacy, numeracy and handwriting?

A: Students will still be taught numeracy, literacy, handwriting and other subjects. The basic curriculum does not change. The BYOD 1:1 program will complement the learning in many of these areas. For example, software is available that teaches numeracy and literacy skills through a far more individualised approach than is physically possible in a standard class of 20 - 30 students. Students will still participate in handwriting lessons.

Q: Have teachers been trained to work in a BYOD environment?

A: Teachers have engaged in numerous professional learning sessions specifically aimed at facilitating student learning by embedding ICT in all curriculum areas as mandated in the Australian curriculum. Teachers will continue to access and utilise support resources to assist with the implementation of a BYOD program in their classroom. PHPS will continue investing significantly in staff professional learning

Q: What information will be provided to parents to support their child's learning under the BYOD program?

A: The School will continue to support parents through relevant articles in the newsletter and the school website page allocated to BYOD. The school will continue to provide opportunities for parents to engage in classroom events and workshops.

Q. Will the students be using their devices all day?

A. No. The students will be using the devices intermittently throughout the day. Device usage is directed by the intended learning. The amount of time students spend on devices will vary from class to class and day to day. Parents are encouraged to monitor the amount of use within their home also. Each family will have different expectations and guidelines for the use of ICT within the home.

Q. Will BYOD be of any benefit to students with special needs?

A. Yes. Children with special needs already have accommodations and adjustments made to the content, instruction and environment within the classroom. BYOD and the immediate use of technology within the classroom will assist them in adjusting the ways in which they can demonstrate their understanding and learning, without being blocked by capabilities that are out of their control.

Q. How will the teacher redirect the focus of children who are off task with their mobile device?

A. Teachers are continually monitoring student learning and behaviour and deal with off task behaviour as part of regular classroom management practices.

Q. How will my child know about the safe use and correct posture when using a device.

A. Students are taught and reminded to protect their posture and look after their backs by creating a surface that allows for the following body positioning while using their device:

- Shoulders relaxed, not elevated or forward
- Upper arms hanging by sides with a right angle at the elbow
- Forearms, wrists and hands in alignment—no bent wrists
- Fingers resting lightly on keys
- Regularly move to a new position – No longer than 1/2hr in the one position
- Stretch in the opposite direction from that which they have been working at.



Q: What about Cybersafety. Will there be an Internet filter applied when the device is used at school?

A: The students will be using their DoE username and password to access the NSW Department of Education filtered Internet service (the same way they currently access the Internet at school). Cyber safety is integrated into all lessons when using a device and this is reinforced within the classroom. Students are reminded not to share usernames and password and to inform an adult immediately if they feel bullied, unsafe or uncomfortable.

Q: Where will the devices be stored once they are at school?

A: When your child arrives at school, devices should be taken to B Block and checked into their class' allocated carry box. Students should enter through the doors closest to the canteen and exit the doors near the computer lab. Class teachers will communicate individual class expectations about taking the devices inside the classroom. Generally, they will be located on a flat surface on a classroom desk. The devices will only be used within class time whilst at school. Students will not be able to use their devices in the playground during breaks; the devices will be locked within the classroom.

Q: What should my child know about travelling to school?

A: Whilst travelling to school, students should leave their devices in their bag and never leave their bag unattended. If travelling by bus or train, it is recommended that students rest their bag on their laps, rather than leaving their bag in the aisle where they are at risk of being damaged.

Q: What if my child goes to BASC? How will the device be kept safe?

A: When students arrive at BASC, students should leave their devices in their bags and ensure they do not leave their bag in places where devices can be damaged. They should alert the BASC staff that they have a device and follow recommendations of where to keep their bag or device.

Q: My child is in Year 6. Will I need to buy a different device when they start high school?

A: No. We have included a range of devices in our minimum specifications to ensure that students in Year 6 may purchase the device required by their high school. If you need further advice about device requirements in high school, you can obtain this information from most high schools websites. Alternatively please contact the school to gain further clarification.

Q: Do students need to bring their devices to school every day?

A: Students are expected to bring their device to school every day, fully charged with any latest updates installed. Teachers will advise students of any times that the device may not be required at school.

Q: Will students be responsible for troubleshooting and fixing students' devices?

A: Minimal technical assistance will be provided by the school when troubleshooting devices. The school will continue to invest in weekly support provided by an external technician. In the event of a device not responding, basic support will be provided and/or a school device provided, as required. Parents will be contacted to discuss any ongoing issues with the device. The Department of Education's Information Technology Directorate offers technology support for its schools and their internal technology networks.

Q: What happens if the device breaks while in school?

A: The teacher will attempt to assist the student in troubleshooting the problem. If the problem persists then the student will put the device away and take it home at the end of the school day where the student and parent can troubleshoot the device. A request will also be lodged with the external technical support company to assist with the troubleshooting on their next visit. Students will continue to have access to school technology resources if their device stops working.

Q: As a parent, am I required to add additional software to my child's device?

A: All DoE students are eligible to download the Microsoft 365 and Adobe software for free. Students will also have access to the Google Suite of Apps from their student portal.

**Q: How will theft, loss or damage of a personally owned device be handled in the school?
Does the school provide insurance for damage, loss or theft?**

A: The guidelines for the BYOD program specifically address the risk of students bringing their own devices to school. The school is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged devices. Parents are encouraged to refer to their home and contents policies to ensure that their child's device is covered while at school. Accidental damage insurance is another option that some vendors are offering when purchasing a device. At all times we recommend a sturdy and strong cover.

Q: Is the use of 5G allowed within the school day?

A: The BYOD policy only covers the connection of devices to the school Wi-Fi. It must be reinforced that if students use their 4G or 5G connection they will not be receiving filtered access to the Internet and so is not allowed. If the student's device has a SIM card, parents are required to store the SIM at home.

Q: Will my child be able to use instant messaging or FaceTime whilst at school?

A: No. Instant messaging, texting or using FaceTime is not permitted during school hours. These applications must be deactivated by signing out of the relevant instant messaging or FaceTime accounts.

Q: Will my child be able to access the school's network when not at school?

A: No, the NSW DoE does not allow students to access their school server space from outside the DoE network. The student will be able to access their cloud account set by the DoE as part of Google apps.

Q: Will students be able to record teachers or classmates (audio or video)?

A: With the permission of the teacher and subject being filmed, students can make recordings. Students should always ask permission before recording and gain consent prior to any recording being made.

Q: Will students be able to print?

A: No. The students will not have access to the school printers via their own personal device. Teachers will print any work via Google classrooms.